

THE ROSARY DEVOTIONS

A Thought for Every Day

in

OCTOBER

the month dedicated to the

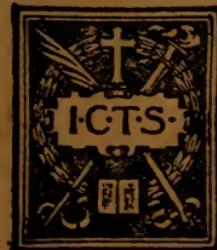
HOLY ROSARY

of

OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER

By

THE REV. MARK J. SMITH, S.J.



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY
405-407 Bergen Street
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Time	Subject	Text	Hymn
1st Day	—Introduction	—Luke 1/48	—“O Blest for e'er”
2nd “	—The Rosary	—Luke 1/28	—“Hail Mary, Mother mild”
3rd “	—The Beads	—Luke 1/50	—“O Mary, my Mother,”
4th “	—The Creed	—Luke 1/35	—“Daughter of God”
5th “	—Our Father	—Matt. 6/9	—“Mother, Mary at thine altar”
6th “	—Glory be	—Rom. 11/36	—“A glorious voice”
7th “	—Prayer to St. Joseph	—Matt. 1/20	—“Dear Guardian”
8th “	—Hail Mary	—Luke 1/42	—“Ave Maria”
9th “	—The Mysteries	—Luke 1/46-7	—“Hail, heavenly queen”
10th “	—Joyful Mysteries	—Luke 1/35	—“Mother, dear”
11th “	—The Annunciation	—Luke 1/26-7	—“What mortal tongue”
12th “	—The Visitation	—Luke 1/43	—“Whither thus”
13th “	—The Nativity	—Luke 2/7	—“Once in Royal David's City”
14th “	—The Presentation	—Luke 2/34	—“In Simeon's arms”
15th “	—The Finding	—Luke 2/46	—“O Mother, dry those tears”
16th “	—A Résumé	—Luke 2/51-2	—“Now are the days”
17th “	—Sorrowful Mysteries	—Luke 2/49	—“By the cross”
18th “	—The Agony	—Luke 22/41, 3	—“O come unto the Olive Grove”
19th “	—The Scourging	—Luke 23/22	—“Now watch with tearful”
20th “	—Crowning with thorns	—Matt. 27/29	—“Behold how Jews and”
21st “	—Carriage of the Cross	—John 19/17	—“With Mary now we”
22nd “	—The Crucifixion	—Luke 23/33	—“Stabat Mater”
23rd “	—A Review	—Matt. 27/59-60	—“What a sea of tears”
24th “	—Glorious Mysteries	—Luke 23/56	—“Holy Queen we bow”
25th “	—The Resurrection	—Matt. 28/2, 4.	—“The day of days”
26th “	—The Ascension	—Luke 24/51	—“And now the friends”
27th “	—Descent of the H. G.	—Acts 2/3	—“A faithful band”
28th “	—The Assumption	—Rom. Br.	—“Behold that open grave”
29th “	—The Coronation	—Rom. Br.	—“To welcome Mary”
30th “	—A Summary	—Luke 24/53	—“O Mother blest”
31st “	—Conclusion	—Lit. B. V. M.	—“Rose of the cross”

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ROSARY DEVOTIONS

A Thought for Every Day
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HOLY ROSARY
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The thought suggested, consists of:—

- 1—An appropriate text of Holy Scripture;
 - 2—A brief instruction; and
 - 3—A familiar hymn.
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1st DAY

“Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 1/48.

INTRODUCTION

Our Holy Mother, the Church, has set apart the month of October as the month of the Holy Rosary. The prophesy of Our Lady herself finds its most complete fulfilment in the daily devout recital of her little chaplet known as the beads. Men of every nation and tribe and tongue and generation repeat and reiterate the truth foretold in the prophesy, when they say of her “BLESSED ART THOU” in every recitation of the Hail Mary. It is an utterance easy to the tongue, familiar to the ear, soothing to the heart, comforting to the soul; and it comes to us hallowed by centuries of use by the clients of Our Lady, and especially approved and indulged by the most solemn decrees of the Catholic Church. Let us resolve to-day that our growth in devotion to the Rosary shall keep pace with the advance of the month of October.

HYMN

“O Blest for e'er the Mother
And Virgin full of grace,
Who bore our God, our Brother,
The Savior of our race.

Chorus:—

“Sweet Jesus, low before Thee,
We bend in fear and love,
O grant we may adore Thee,
In Thy bright realms above.

“Pure as the light of heaven
In meekness nearest Thee
‘Tis Thou hast Mary given
Our guide, our friend to be.”

2nd DAY

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.”
Luke 1/28.

THE ROSARY

“The Rosary,” says the Roman Breviary, “is a certain form of prayer wherein we say fifteen decades or tens of Hail Marys with an Our Father between each ten, while at each of these fifteen decades we recall successively in pious meditation one of the mysteries of our redemption.” (Cath. Encl., Art. ROSARY). Around the words of the Angel’s salutation to Mary has been grouped the form of the rosary as approved and blessed by the Church, and familiar to us to-day. By the holy use of this vocal method of prayer a fuller knowledge of our Blessed Lady grows in our minds; a deeper love penetrates our hearts; and a keener desire to imitate her virtues inspires our souls. Progress in the knowledge, love and imitation of Mary Our Mother is the object sought by these October Devotions.

HYMN

“Hail Mary, Mother mild,
O sweet, sweet Mother
Hear, O hear, thy feeble child,
O sweet, sweet Mother.

Chorus:—

“O exult, ye Cherubim!
And rejoice, ye Seraphim
Praise her! praise her!
O praise our spotless Mother.

“Tossed on life’s tempestuous sea,
O sweet, sweet Mother
Cast thy tender eyes on me,
O sweet, sweet Mother.”

3rd DAY

"And His mercy is from generation to generation, to them that fear Him." Luke 1/50.

THE BEADS

That we may not grow weary with the undue length of the rosary, our Holy Mother the Church has seen to it that only a third of the rosary—five decades—shall be recited at any one time; this division is known as the beads. Mary's youthful Joys, are expressed in the first five decades; the Sorrows of her maturity, in the second five; and the Glorious rewards of her youthful joys borne with serenity, and the sorrows of her maturity sustained with resignation, are recorded in the final five. Thus we learn that Mary's life, like that of all faithful followers of her Divine Son, was the normal life that begins in gladness, progresses in suffering, and closes in the eternal happiness of heaven. If we imitate her humility in our prosperity; her submission in adversity; we may rest assured that like hers our crown in heaven will be precious.

HYMN

O Mary, my Mother, most lovely, most mild,
Look down upon me a poor weak lowly child;
From the land of my exile I call upon thee,
Then Mary, my Mother, look kindly on me;
Then Mary, my Mother, look kindly on me.

If thou dost forsake me, ah! where shall I go,—
My comfort and hope in this valley of woe?
When the world and its dangers with terrors I see,
Sweet hopes come to cheer me in thinking of thee;
Sweet hopes come to cheer me in thinking of thee.

In sorrow, in darkness, be still at my side;
My light and my refuge, my helper and guide.
Though snares should surround me, yet why should
I fear?

I know I am weak, but my Mother is near!
I know I am weak, but my Mother is near.

4th DAY

"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the most High shall over-shadow thee."

Luke 1/35.

THE CREED

Long-standing custom has firmly established the practice of beginning the rosary with the Apostles Creed. And this is most fitting, for in that creed we assert our belief in the fundamental truths of our religion, and as it were, announce anew our steadfast and unhesitating adherence to the dogmas and doctrines declared by the infallible authority of the Apostles to be essential to salvation. This creed according to a pious belief was the first catechism of the church, a document drawn up and subscribed to by all the Apostles before their dispersion from Jerusalem, whence they went to teach all nations. Our Blessed Lady herself was present at the council which produced and promulgated this CREED, and aided by her advice and prayers in its construction. Let us repeat it with respect, with reverence and with great devotion as we begin the rosary.

HYMN

"Daughter of God the Father
O Virgin pure and mild;
I venerate and love thee
Accept me for thy child;
My soul and all its powers
I consecrate to thee;

Chorus:— Be pleased most holy Mother,
From sin to keep me free,
Be pleased, most Holy Mother,
To pray our Lord for me.

"Mother of our Redeemer,
O Virgin, pure and mild,
I venerate and love thee
Accept me for thy child;
My body and its senses
I consecrate to thee:—*Chorus:*

5th DAY

"You therefore shall pray in this manner: Our Father Who art in heaven." Matt. 6/9.

THE "OUR FATHER"

The Our Father—often called "The Lord's Prayer"—has come to us from the divine lips of Jesus Himself. He taught it publicly to the multitude who listened to His Sermon on the Mount, and privately to His Apostles when they asked Him to teach them how to pray. In the brief compass of fifty-six words are incorporated the threefold purpose of all prayer, namely, praise, thanksgiving and petition. In the recitation of the Holy Rosary we repeat the Our Father at the beginning of every decade. How marvelously fitting it is that the prayer of her Divine Son should begin each decade of our Blessed Lady's chaplet! Let us strive to say the Our Father with the love and delight with which Our Lady said it!

HYMN

"Mother, Mary, at thine altar
We thy loving children kneel;
With a faith that cannot falter
To thy goodness we appeal.
We are seeking for a mother
O'er the earth so waste and wide,
And from off the cross our Brother
Points to Mary by His side.

"Thou wilt love us, thou wilt guide us,
With a mother's fondest care;
And Our Father, God above us,
Bids us fly for refuge there.
Life's temptations are before us,
We must mingle in the strife.
If thy fondness watch not o'er us
All unsafe will be our life."

6th DAY

"For of Him, and by Him, and in Him are all things; to Him be glory for ever. Amen."

St. Paul, Rom. 11/36.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

This is the prayer known as the doxology. It is a short verse praising God, used since about the seventh century all over Western Christendom in the form in which we know it to-day. It is commonly called the lesser doxology. The greater doxology is the "Gloria in excelsis Deo" in the Mass. In the Rosary the "Glory be to the Father" is as it were a bond linking together the prayers of the rosary, or a transition from the oft repeated "Hail Mary" to the less often said "Our Father." It is essentially a prayer of praise, and as such is most appropriately incorporated in the little chaplet of Our Lady's rosary.

HYMN

"A glorious voice sounds through the night,
And chides the darkness into light;
The mists of sleep are driven afar,
And Christ shines forth, the morning star.

"Now from its torpor leaps the mind,
And leaves all taint of earth behind;
The new-born Planet flames on high,
And bids all care and sorrow fly."

7th DAY

"Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee, Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost." Matt. 1/20.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

By order of the Supreme Pontiff the "Prayer to St. Joseph" is to be recited daily during the October Devotions in honor of Our Lady. St. Joseph was Mary's unfailing protector in life, and it would be an unpardonable slight to him were we to appeal to Mary and exclude St. Joseph! Were such exclusion deliberate we should certainly fail to obtain Mary's aid; for a slight to him is an offense to his immaculate spouse. They shared each other's joys and sufferings in life, and they are to-day sharing each other's triumphs and glories in heaven. They are one in mind and heart and victory, and they are not to be separated in our petitions and prayers.

HYMN

"Dear Guardian of Mary! dear nurse of her child!
Life's ways are full weary, the desert is wild;
Bleak sands are all round us, no home can we see;
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! we lean upon thee.

"For thou to the pilgrim art father and guide,
And Jesus and Mary felt safe at thy side;
Ah! blessed St. Joseph, how safe should I be,
Sweet spouse of our Lady! if thou wert with me!

"O blessed St. Joseph! how great was thy worth;
The one chosen shadow of God upon earth;
The Father of Jesus—ah! then wilt thou be,
Sweet spouse of our Lady! a father to me?"

8th DAY

"Blessed art thou among women; and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." Luke 1/42.

THE HAIL MARY

The Hail Mary consists of the utterances of the Angel, of St. Elizabeth, and of the Church. By the Angel Mary is told that she possesses the plenitude of grace and is to be the mother of the Redeemer: by St. Elizabeth the prophesy is made that Mary shall be blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of her womb; and the Church adds the petition to Mary to pray for us. Thus did Angel, Prophetess and Church unite in formulating for us this most simple, and most familiar of all prayers—the Hail Mary.

HYMN

Gounod's—"Ave Maria,
Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu
In mulieribus
Et benedictus
Fructus ventris
Tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria
Mater DEI
Ora pro nobis
Peccatoribus,
Nunc, et in hora
Mortis nostræ. Amen."

9th DAY

"My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47.

THE MYSTERIES

Each decade of the rosary commemorates a particular event called a mystery in Mary's existence. And while saying the rosary we should devoutly meditate upon the event suggested by these mysteries. The Joyful Mysteries cluster about the happy motherhood of Mary; the Sorrowful Mysteries present her to us as the Co-Redemptrix of our fallen race; while the Glorious Mysteries relate the reward and triumph that is hers for all eternity. Hers was the privilege to bring the Savior of mankind into the world; to share with Him by sympathy and by suffering His sacred passion and death; and finally to be placed by Him on the exalted throne in heaven where for all eternity she reigns Queen of Angels and of men. With the contemplation of these mysteries before us the recitation of the rosary must ever grow dearer and sweeter and more and more sublime.

HYMN

"Hail, heavenly Queen! Hail, foamy ocean star!
O be our guide, diffuse thy beams afar;
Hail, Mother of God! above all virgins blest,
Hail, happy gate of heav'n's eternal rest."

Chorus:

"Hail, foamy ocean star! Hail, heav'nly Queen!
O be our guide to endless joys unseen."

"Hail, full of grace, with Gabriel we repeat;
Thee, Queen of heav'n, from him we learn to greet;
Then give us peace which heav'n alone can give,
And dead thro' Eve, thro' Mary let us live."

10th DAY

"And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1/35.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

While reciting the first five decades of the rosary our Holy Mother the Church asks us to contemplate in succession the gladness and joy that thrilled Mary as she realized the privilege of her marvelous and sacred motherhood of the Holy One, promised of old as the Redeemer of mankind! The holy rapture and sacred ecstasy that accompanied every episode from the Annunciation to the Finding in the Temple prepared and strengthened Mary for the desolation and "sword of grief" that later was to pierce her soul. Contemplation of these sacred mysteries strengthens our trust in Mary and secures us against the danger of presumption when we are blessed with *spiritual joy and consolation*. Mary accepted her joys with serenity, ours should be accepted with gratitude and humility.

HYMN

"Mother dear, O! pray for me,
Whilst far from heav'n and thee
I wander in a fragile bark,
O'er life's tempestuous sea;
O Virgin Mother, from thy throne,
So bright in bliss above,
Protect thy child and cheer my path
With thy sweet smile of love.

Chorus:—"Mother dear, remember me
And never cease thy care
'Till in heaven eternally,
Thy love and bliss I share.

"Mother dear, O! pray for me
Should pleasure's siren lay
E'er tempt thy child to wander far
From Virtue's path away;
When thorns beset life's devious way
And darkling waters flow,
Then Mary, aid thy weeping child,
Thyselv a mother show."

11th DAY

"And in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the name of the Virgin was Mary." Luke 1:26-27.

THE ANNUNCIATION

It requires but a slight effort of the imagination to picture this beautiful scene. The Angel sent from God stands before Mary who is kneeling in prayer. Their eyes meet, the message is delivered, and the holy rapture of both messenger and recipient glows on the countenance of each. The redemption of fallen man is secured and sealed by the reply of Mary:—"Be it done unto me according to thy word." With this scene clearly visualized in our minds how can we ever tire of repeating over and over again the ever refreshing inspiration expressed in the divinely thrilling phrases of the Hail Mary!

HYMN

"What mortal tongue can sing thy praise,
Dear Mother of the Lord?
To Angels only it belongs
Thy glory to record.
Who born of man can penetrate
Thy soul's majestic shrine?
Who can thy mighty gifts unfold,
Or rightly them divine?

"Say, Virgin, what sweet force was that
Which from the Father's breast,
Drew forth His co-eternal Son,
To be thy bosom's guest?
'Twas not thy guileless faith alone
That lifted thee so high,
'Twas not thy pure seraphic love
Nor peerless chastity."

12th DAY

"And whence is this to me that the Mother of My Lord should come to me?" Luke 1/43.

THE VISITATION

As we picture the meeting of St. Elizabeth and our Blessed Lady we must be deeply impressed with the unselfish charity of our Mother Mary! The most unique gift granted by God to mortal woman was now possessed by Mary, the most sublime of all dignity is hers. After a thanksgiving of unparalleled fervor Mary promptly sets out on a visit of charity and felicitation to the expectant mother of John the Baptist. Not Mary, but Heaven reveals to St. Elizabeth the truth that Mary is the Mother of God! Mary had come to diffuse her kindly aid and sweet benediction upon Elizabeth, not to parade her own unapproachable excellence. Her humility shrank from the latter, her charity prompted the former.

HYMN

"Whither thus in holy rapture
Princely Maiden art thou bent?
Why so fleetly art thou speeding
Up the mountain's rough ascent?
Filled with the eternal God-head
Glowing with the Spirit's flame!
Love it is that bears thee forward,
And supports thy tender frame.

"Lo! thine aged cousin claims thee
Claims thy sympathy and care;
God her shame from her hath taken;
He hath heard her fervent prayer.
Blessed Mother! joyful meeting!
Thou in her, the hand of God,
She in thee, with lips inspired
Owns the "Mother of her Lord."

13th DAY

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2/7.

THE NATIVITY

The picture of Mary and Joseph kneeling in adoration and the ox and ass lending the warmth of their breath to comfort the new born Babe of Bethlehem can never fail to arouse within us the deepest emotions of gratitude and love towards the Infant Savior. The meekness and dependence of the Holy Infant awakens within us a heaven-born desire to aid and console His Mother and St. Joseph in their tender efforts to care for and protect Him. The cruelty of the inn which excluded them from its shelter stirs us to just indignation; but the gentleness and submission of Mary and Joseph elicit from us an act of faith and resignation. Not the grandeur of this world, but the unending bliss of heaven is the portion of those who adore at the crib of Bethlehem.

HYMN

Once in Royal David's city,
Stood a lonely cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
With a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her only child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly
Lived on earth, Our Savior holy.

14th DAY

"And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother: behold this child is set for the ruin, and for the resurrection of many in Israel."

Luke 2/34.

THE PRESENTATION

Let us concentrate our minds with ever increasing devotion upon the picture conjured up before our imaginations by the thought of the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple! The holy old man Simeon is there to receive Him in his arms, and while fondling Him to his bosom, he gives utterance to the canticle:—"Nunc dimittis"—"Now dost Thou dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word, in peace." Read the expression in Mary's eyes as she hopefully searches the countenance of Simeon eagerly but respectfully following his prophetic message, which she and Joseph treasure in their hearts and ponder over in their thoughts! The life-long desire of Simeon's expectancy is gratified; the future greatness of the Child is foretold; the hearts of Mary and Joseph exult; and as we tell our beads are not our own hearts touched with a tremor of holy and responsive emotion?

HYMN

"In Simeon's arms behold the Babe,
Who rules both earth and skies!
On Mary's child, his promised Lord
He rests his aged eyes.
How long had waited, how long pray'd
This blissful day to see!
And now he asks to go in peace
Where Jesus soon will be."

15th DAY

"And it came to pass that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them and answering them questions." Luke 2/46.

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

As we recite the final decade of the JOYFUL mysteries our attention is arrested by the wonderful picture presented to our minds. There is the Boy—JESUS—surrounded by the learned doctors of sacred scripture. After their three days of weary and sorrowful search for Him, the ears of Joseph and Mary are blessed with the music of His voice answering with wisdom the questions of His seniors; and their eyes are diffused with tears of gladness at the renewed vision of His divine face. If grief over His loss was bitter to the hearts of Joseph and Mary, with what refreshing sweetness has His Finding in the Temple comforted them? The search was long and weary and sorrowful, the finding, replete with joy and comfort.

HYMN

"O Mother, dry those bitter tears!
O Mother, grieve no more!
Thy Child, thy Jesus is not lost,
That weary search is o'er;
To do His Father's work, He chose
Among the scribes to be;
But now returns to dwell for years
With Joseph and with thee."

16th DAY

"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth; and was subject to them. And His mother kept all these words in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and age and grace with God and men." Luke 2/51-52.

A RÉSUMÉ

From the "Finding in the Temple" until the beginning of His public life—a period of about eighteen years—Jesus, Mary and Joseph dwelt happily together in the little home at Nazareth. Some time before the beginning of His public life His Fother-Father, St. Joseph, breathed out his soul while his head was pillowed on the breast of Jesus. And the last lingering gaze of his eyes beheld the sweet encouragement of Mary's tearful countenance smiling upon him. During those years Mary and Joseph had pondered over the marvelous prophesies revealed to them, and that daily experience was unfolding before them. The joys of Mary's young motherhood were now over, except in the sacred memories they had traced upon her mind and heart, and with the departure of St. Joseph the "Shadow of the Cross that had lain athwart the crib of Bethlehem" began to deepen and darken and to penetrate more closely the shelter of her home.

HYMN

"Now are the days of humblest pray'r
When consciences to God lie bare,
And mercy most delights to spare.

Chorus:—"O hearken when we cry,
Chastise us with Thy fear
Yet, Father, in the multitude
Of Thy compassions hear.

"Now is the season, wisely long,
Of sadder thought and graver song
When ailing hearts grow well and strong."

17th DAY

"How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know, that I must be about the things that are My Father's?" Luke 2/49.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Mary's keeping of "all these words in her heart" had not been in vain. Her years of meditation and daily experience with her Divine Son had taught her that the great purpose of His earthly sojourn was to make atonement to His heavenly Father for the sins of mankind; and in that atonement she was to be Co-Redemptrix. Pain and suffering and rejection and death were to be the portion of Jesus; and Mary's, the immolation of her heart, and the "sword of grief" foretold by the aged Simeon, was to be driven to the very hilt into her spotless soul. With the death of St. Joseph and the desolate void in her heart created by the loss of his kindly companionship the realization sank deeper and deeper into her mind that soon she was to be deprived also of that other more intimate companionship, that, namely, of Jesus, who has now in reality to give himself up entirely to "the things of His Father." He was to be the victim; she, the constant, sympathetic, super-suffering witness of His trials and death.

HYMN

"By the cross her station keeping
Stood the mournful mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last.
Through her heart, His sorrow sharing
All His bitter anguish bearing
Now at length the sword has passed.
O that blessed one, grief laden
Blessed mother, blessed maiden,
Mother of the All-blest One.
How she stood in desolation
Upward gazing on the passion
Of that deathless, dying Son."

18th DAY

"And kneeling down He prayed."—"And being in an agony, He prayed the longer." Luke 22/41, 43.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

As we devoutly recite the first decade of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary, let us strive to conjure up in our minds the picture of Jesus praying! Try to see Him kneeling on the cold ground, His elbows resting on the hard dew-damped rock, His sacred hands folded in supplication, His upturned eyes gazing piteously towards heaven, His fevered lips moving in fervent prayer. It is night. He is praying alone. The pale beams of the moon pierce the foliage and fall upon His wan face, and disclose to us the agony He is enduring. His disciples are asleep; His friends have deserted Him; one, and only one true and loyal heart is beating in love and sympathy and suffering with His—the heart of His blessed Mother! Will not that picture aid us in our effort to recite with more than ordinary devotion this first decade of the sorrowful mysteries?

HYMN

"O come unto the Olive Grove
And see where Jesus kneels:
The anguish of His Sacred Heart,
A sweat of blood reveals.
To comfort Christ an angel came,
And brought his God relief;
We, too, by love and pray'r may try
To soothe His bitter grief."

19th DAY

"I find no cause of death in Him; I will chastise Him, therefore, and let Him go." Luke 23/22.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

In this second of the sorrowful mysteries we see our Blessed Lord fettered to the pillar, His sacred body stripped of its clothing, and the rude soldiers with cruel thongs, lashing His tender flesh and bruising it until the blood flows. The raucous ribaldry of the reckless and unfeeling soldiers falls upon the sacred ears of Christ as a hideous accompaniment to the stinging blows that fall upon His gentle body. With our attention riveted upon this scene, and with the knowledge that our Blessed Lady was keenly aware of all that was transpiring let us recite this decade in unison with her, striving as best we may to alleviate her pain, and solace her affliction, so far as in our power lies.

HYMN

"Now watch with tearful eyes the stripes,
The cruel blows which fall
On Jesus, as He stands fast bound
In Pilate's judgment hall.
Those stripes that shame my sins deserve,
Why fall they, Lord, on Thee?
Thy love, my God, thy too great love
Would bear them all for me."

20th DAY

"And plating a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand, and bowing the knee before Him, they mocked Him saying:— Hail, King of the Jews." Matt. 27/29.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

What a picture this scene related by St. Matthew places before us as we recite this third decade of the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary! He Who is really our King, is thrust upon a jagged pedestal, crowned with a wreath of thorns, furnished with a reed as a sceptre, and subjected to the scorn and mockery and ribaldry of a group of soldiers who were crude and rough and pitiless! Keeping that picture before our minds, let us reflect for a moment on the sorrow and affliction that settled upon the heart of Mary as she realized the tortures to which her Divine Son was being abased! With a supreme act of self-surrender to the holy will of God she steels herself to acquiescence with the sublime submission of Her Divine Son in His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father.

HYMN

"Behold how Jews and soldiers weave
For Christ a thorny crown,
And bending on one knee in jest,
Before His face bow down!
My Jesus, for each piercing thorn,
For every jest and smart,
We still will make fresh acts of love
To soothe Thy Sacred Heart."

21st DAY

"And bearing His own cross, He went forth to that place which is called Calvary, but in Hebrew Golgotha." John 19/17.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

To compel one condemned to death to bear the instrument of his execution upon his own shoulders was a most cruel and unusual punishment. And yet such was the fiendish hatred of the enemies of Christ that this irregular method of punishment was inflicted upon Him. Let us try to bring before our mind's eye the picture of Christ struggling under the weight of the cross, as he totters, stumbles, falls in the road, along that first and real "way of the cross." How the dull thud of the dragging beam beats upon and bruises the ears of Mary as she hears and sees that progress! How she longs to be allowed to lend her strength to aid Him! But no! Hers is the duty to witness, to sympathize, to pray and to endure; to be the "Mother most Sorrowful."

HYMN

"With Mary now we follow Christ,
He mounts the hill of woe,
And bears His heavy cross along
With fainting steps and slow.
Can we relieve His weary limbs,
Or ease His racking pain?
O yes, if we will show Him now
He did not die in vain."

22nd DAY

"And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him there; and the robbers, one on the right hand and the other on the left." Luke 23/33.

THE CRUCIFIXION

During this decade let us picture to our minds Christ, dead upon the cross! As if the indignities and brutalities to which He had been subjected were not enough to satisfy the brutish instincts of His savage foes the added obloquy of execution between two public malefactors was accorded Him! "The sword of grief" has at last been driven in, up to the very hilt, in Mary's soul. Has its penetration opened the way to resentment? No, but to gratitude, because finally the mercy of death has been accorded! His sufferings have ended—and from Mary's lips there comes only petitions pleading for pardon for His executioners! Let us gaze earnestly and long at that picture of Mary at the foot of the cross, and learn to "forgive those who trespass against us."

HYMN

"Stabat Mater dolorosa,
Juxta crucem lacrymosa,
Dum pendebat Filius.

"Cujus animam gementem,
Constristatem et dolentem,
Pertransivit gladius.

"O quam tristis et afflita,
Fuit illa benedicta
Mater Unigeniti."

23rd DAY

"And Joseph taking the body wrapped it up in a clean linen cloth; and laid it in his own new monument which he had hewed out of a rock."

Matt. 27/59-60.

A REVIEW

From the death of St. Joseph until the death of Her Divine Son, the sorrows of Mary accumulated and intensified until beneath—not the shadow—but beneath the cross itself the climax of human endurance in suffering was experienced by Mary. "The sword of grief" had pierced her soul: and only the gentle but all-powerful hand of her Divine Son possessed the strength to dislodge it! He and He alone could withdraw that jagged blade from her transfix'd heart. But if Mary's sorrows were unfathomable, the glories that awaited her were likewise beyond compute. And it is to the mysteries of these glories that we now progress in our study of the Holy Rosary.

HYMN

"What a sea of tears and sorrows
Did the soul of Mary toss
To and fro upon the billows
While she wept her bitter loss;
In her arms her Jesus holding,
Torn so newly from the cross.

"O that mournful Virgin Mother!
See her tears, how fast they flow
Down upon His mangled body,
Wounded side, and thorny brow!
While His hands and feet she kisses—
Picture of immortal woe."

24th DAY

"And returning they prepared spices and ointments; and on the Sabbath day they rested, according to the commandment." Luke 23/56.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

In all the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary, there are only two, and they the last two, that belong wholly to Mary alone. All the others centre around Jesus, her Divine Son, telling of His coming into the world, His sufferings while here, His glorious return and triumphant departure. What a lesson of unselfishness this teaches us! Here is a method of prayer specifically designed to honor Mary, and she in her humility turns the gaze of her faithful clients from herself to the One whom she loves most, intentionally diverting our attention from herself to Jesus! "He that is Mighty hath done great things to me"—what greater return could Mary make than that which she has made? Transferring even her own Holy Rosary to His glory!

HYMN

"Holy Queen we bow before thee
Queen of purity divine!
Make us love thee we implore thee
Make us truly to be thine.

"Teach, O teach us, Holy Mother
How to conquer every sin
How to love and help each other;
How the prize of life to win.

"Thou to whom a child was given
Greater than the sons of men
Coming down from highest heaven,
To create the world again."

25th DAY

"And behold there was a great earthquake. For an Angel of the Lord descended from heaven; and coming rolled back the stone, and sat upon it."—

"And for fear of him, the guards were struck with terror, and became as dead men." Matt. 28/2, 4.

THE RESURRECTION

The "sword of grief" has been plucked out; the balm of unutterable consolation has been poured in; the wound of Mary's heart is healed, and no scar or spot remains! Jesus her Son is risen and before the Angel has completed the rolling back of the stone, Jesus is with Mary consoling her as only such a Son can comfort such a mother! Truly "The Lord is with thee," Mary,—not now in the concealment of the Angel's message, but in the might and triumph of His glorious resurrection. The atonement is accomplished: and the Sacred Redeemer meets, embraces and glorifies the Co-Redemptrix of our fallen race. What raptures of love pass between them it is not given us to witness. Even the Holy Scriptures are silent on this! Let us cease striving to penetrate that sacred scene, and bow our heads in humblest prayer of gratitude and faith.

HYMN

"The day of days has dawned at last
And white robed angels say,
The Lord has left His cold dark grave,
The stone is rolled away.

O Mary Magdalen be glad!
O loving saint rejoice
Though blinded by your tears you know
Your risen Master's voice."

26th DAY

"And it came to pass whilst He blessed them, that He departed from them and was carried up into heaven." Luke 24/51.

THE ASCENSION

As we recite this second decade of the Glorious Mysteries let us strive to picture that scene on the hill of Bethania. Jesus instructs and commissions His Apostles and disciples to go into the whole world as witnesses of His words and works; and He promises them that He will be with them through all time even to the consummation of the world. He who by His passion and death redeemed the world and by His resurrection proved Himself to be God, now blesses His faithful followers, and while blessing them—ascends, before their very eyes,—to heaven. And is Mary to accompany Him? No! A new sacrifice is asked of her, the sacrifice of fifteen years of separation from Her Divine Son; that she may remain to guide and direct by her example and prayer the Infant Church.

HYMN

"And now the friends of Jesus come
With wistful yearning eyes,
To gaze on their dear Savior's form
Ascending to the skies.
He mounts in robes of light arrayed;
And Mary stands behind
For fifteen years to teach them all
That upward path to find."

27th DAY

"And there appeared to them cloven tongues as it were of fire; and it sat upon each of them."

Acts 2/3.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

Before the day of His ascension Our Blessed Lord had promised that He would ask the Father that "He shall give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you for ever." That Paraclete is a Comforter, an Advocate, because by inspiring prayer, he prays, as it were, in us, and pleads for us. That Paraclete is the Holy Ghost, and in this third decade of the Glorious Mysteries we are asked to picture to ourselves the fulfilment of Christ's promise as portrayed for us in the Acts of the Apostles. The Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues; the flames representing ardor and power; and the tongues implying persuasion and wisdom. Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Ghost, is the "Seat of Wisdom." In this decade let us beg her to grant us the intelligence needed in our daily life, and the courage to use it always.

HYMN

"A faithful band had gathered round
Their Lord's own Mother dear,
A mighty rushing wind is heard,
The Paraclete is near.
Lo! fiery tongues are resting now
On every sainted head,
And since on every Christian soul
The Spirit's light is shed."

28th DAY

"Mary was assumed into heaven; the Angels rejoiced, and praising Him, they blessed God."

Ant. Rom. Breviary, Assumpt.

THE ASSUMPTION

For the first time among the fifteen mysteries, we find one devoted exclusively to Mary! It is Mary, Mother of God, who is carried up by the Angels, and placed upon her heavenly throne, whence from henceforth throughout eternity she is to reign as "Queen of Angels," Queen of heaven and earth. Our Holy Mother the Church sets apart the 15th of August as a special holyday, and guarantees its observance with the same sanction that she imposes on the observance of Sunday; thereby setting her seal of approval on this most Catholic belief, that Mary was taken bodily up into heaven! As we devoutly recite this decade let us keep the picture of Mary's triumphal entrance into heaven before our minds.

HYMN

"Behold that open grave, adorn'd
With blossoms fair and bright,
And saints who mourned for Mary, stand
Enraptur'd with the sight.
They find her spotless body gone,
Sweet roses in its place.
Assumed on high she leaves this world
To get and give us grace."

29th DAY

"Thou art exalted, O Mother of God. Above the choirs of Angels to the celestial kingdoms."

Vers. Rom. Br. (Assumpt.)

THE CORONATION

Just as Holy Scripture is silent about the meeting on the morning of the Resurrection between Jesus and Mary, so too is silence maintained about the Assumption and Coronation of Mary. But the Church, the infallible representative of Christ on earth, speaks in no uncertain terms of both events, teaching them through her sanction upon the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and in many other unmistakable ways. In this final decade, let us try to picture for ourselves that Coronation! A Coronation in which the Father crowns Mary as His daughter; the Son crowns her as His Mother; the Holy Ghost crowns her as His spotless Spouse! while the Angels in heavenly chorus sing her praise!

HYMN

"To welcome Mary, Queen of Saints,
See countless angels throng,
A glad 'Hail Mary' rends the skies,
An anthem loud and long.
See, Jesus crowns His Mother dear
With rays of purest light
And Saints and Angels kneel and own
That Maiden Mother's might."

30th DAY

"And they were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." Luke 24/53.

A SUMMARY

As we rapidly gaze back over the scenes and events suggested by these Glorious Mysteries we cannot fail to be impressed with the utter unselfishness of Mary our Mother! Surely we should expect that with the release of her Divine Son from His suffering and death, she too would at once share in His glory. At the foot of the cross she had been given to us, in the person of St. John, as our Mother, and that she might prove to us her maternal care for us, she willingly consents to remain for fifteen long years after the Ascension of her Son, here upon earth, to care for the Infant Church with the same solicitude that she cared for the Child Jesus, in the days of His infancy at Bethlehem. What a sacrifice that was—the sacrifice of separation, the sacrifice of labor! But Mary made it for love of us, her adopted children! What shall we do for her?

HYMN

"O Mother blest whom God bestows
On sinners and on just,
What joy what hope thou givest those
Who in thy mercy trust!"

Chorus:—

"Most holy Mary! at thy feet
Thy children bend a suppliant knee;
Dear Mother of my God,
Do thou remember me."

"Remember, Mary, Virgin fair,
It never yet was told
That he who humbly sought thy care,
Departed unconsoled."

31st DAY

"Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us."

Litany B. V. M.

CONCLUSION

The month of October ends to-day, and with it we close the beautiful devotion of the Holy Rosary. The Joys, the sorrows, the Glories of Mary have been proposed to us for our meditation and prayer and slight indeed has been the profit reaped from these suggestions if we have not increased our love for Mary, and resolved earnestly to strive to imitate her unselfish generosity. Prayer, labor and sacrifice were so constantly practiced by her that they became part of her nature. They were habits so thoroughly fixed in her life and conduct that we cannot think of her without their association. After the Grace of God, and with that grace's aid, it was these habits that made her what she is to-day, the most perfect of all God's creatures. Prayer, labor and sacrifice, in imitation of Mary, will sweeten our lives, and render them pleasing to her, and to her Divine Son, Jesus.

HYMN

"Rose of the cross, thou mystic flower!
I lift my heart to thee;
In every melancholy hour,
O Mary remember me!"

"A wanderer here through many a wild,
Where few their way can see—
Bloom with thy fragrance on thy child,
O Mary remember me!"

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